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PACKET FORMAT IN HUB FOR  
PACKET DATA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A packet data communication network employs a local switch, router or bridge  
device functioning to transfer packets between segments of a larger network. When  
packets enter this device, an address translation is performed to generate local source  
and destination addresses which are much shorter than the globally-unique addresses  
contained in the packet as dictated by the protocol. These local addresses are inserted  
in a header that is added to the packet, in addition to any header already contained in  
the packet. This added header travels with the packet through the local switch, router  
or bridge device, but then is stripped off before the packet is sent out onto another  
10 network segment. The added header may also contain other information, such as a  
local name for the source and destination segment (link), as well as status information  
that is locally useful, but not part of the packet protocol and not necessary for  
transmission with the packet throughout the network. Local congestion information,  
results of address translations, and end-of-message information, are examples of such  
15 status information.

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